Mechanised farming in Orissa

1976. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa proposes to set up farmer's training centre to promote mechanized farming in collaboration with Bharat-Krushak Samaj;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action of the Central Government to help the State for successful execution of this project in order to improve the methods of cultivation of paddy, coconut, fish culture and animal husbandry in the State to improve the rural economy of this backward region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Meeting of Low Rain Area Authority

1977. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of meetings held by the Low Rain Area Authority, so far;

(b) the decisions taken by the said authority in such meetings; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme to convert low rain fed areas into high yielding areas inview of increasing need to foodgrains and constant decrease in agriculture land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government has not set up and Low Rainfall Area Authority. However, a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) has been set up by the Government of India on 3.11.2006. This Authority has met once on 12.02.2007. The following decisions were taken in this meeting:—

- Awareness campaign should be taken up for water conservation and water management.

- A review of guidelines of watershed development programmes should be initiated at an early date.
- Two schemes of the Ministry of Water Resources namely, (i) Artificial Recharge of Ground Water; (ii) Renovation of Existing Water Bodies/ Tanks should be brought under the ambit of NRAA alongwith the identified schemes of Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development & Environment and Forest and Planning Commission for review and monitoring.
- The Planning Commission should make a comprehensive presentation on the programmes of different Central Ministries highlighting the programme implementation, their impact and the guidelines to a group comprising of the NRAA Governing Board and other experts in the field.
- Secretary (A&C) should function as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Rainfed Area Authority till the taking over of a regular CEO.
- Secretaries (A&C) and Rural Development will jointly finalize the modalities regarding development of the staff and other administrative matters of NRAA.

(c) The Government is implementing a comprehensive scheme titled, 'National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)' in all 28 States and 2 Union Territories (Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Dadra & Nagar Haveli). This scheme is based on watershed approach to improve the agricultural production and productivity in rainfed areas.

Second green revolution

1978. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any fresh strategy for a Second Green Revolution;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the goals set out thereunder; and

(c) whether directions have been issued in this regard to different States and Union Territories for implementation of the scheme?